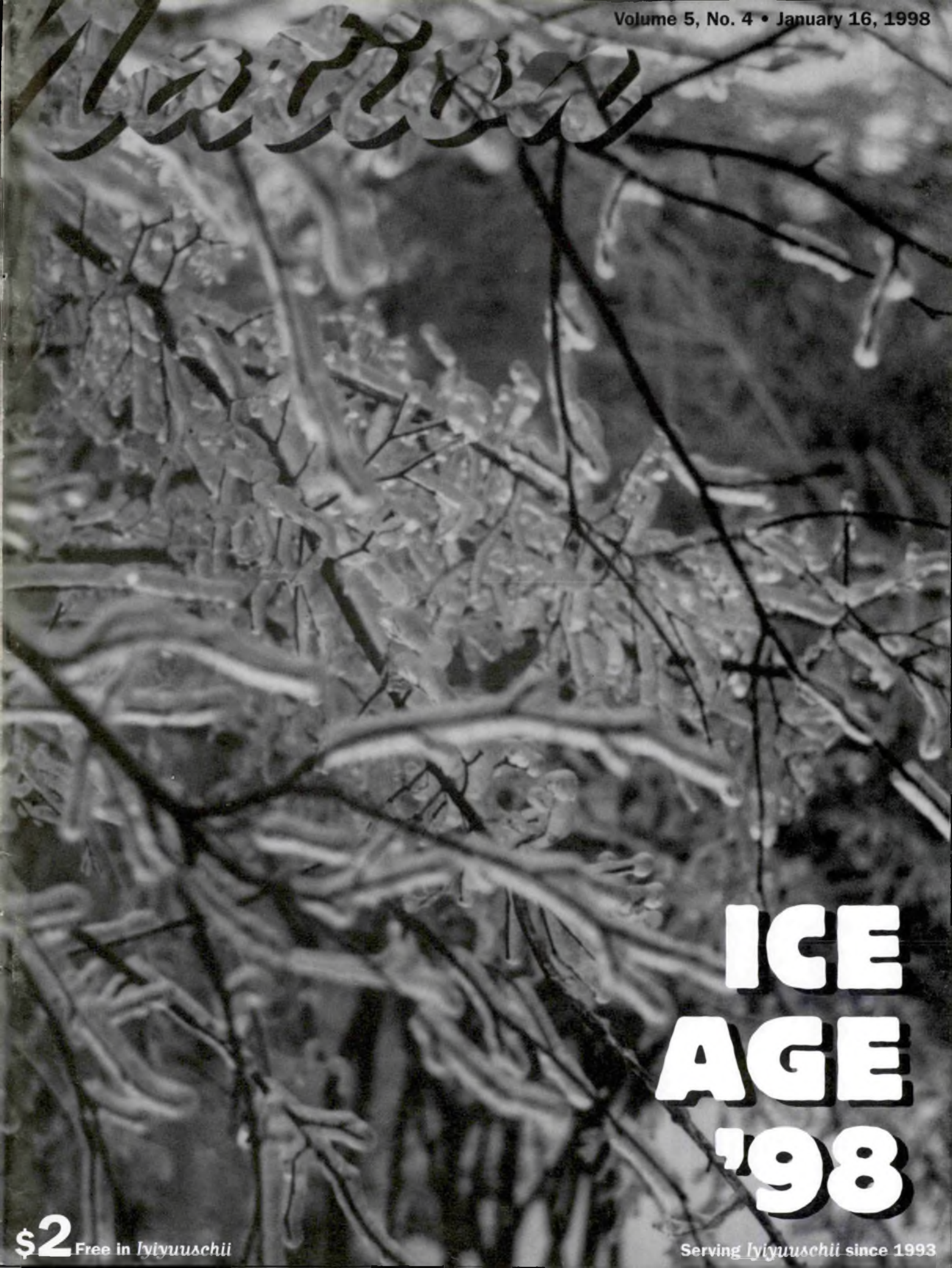
Volume 5, No. 4 • January 16, 1998

Navaan



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Eastmain 4th Annual Invitational Basketball Tournament

January 29, 30, 31, February 1st, 1998

On behalf of the Cree Nation of Eastmain, Recreation Department and the Members of the organizing committee, we are officially inviting your community to come and participate in our 4th annual invitational basketball tournament that will be held on January 29, 30, 31, February 1st, 1998 at the Wabannutao Eeyou School Gymnasium.

Please note the list of categories that follow, and send registration form completed, duly signed and returned along with your entry fee no later than January 22, 1998 and make the cheque payable to: Eastmain annual basketball tournament, c/o Ricky Gilpin, P.O. Box 90, Eastmain, Quebec, JOM 1W0

		PRIZES FOR THE TOURNAMENT	
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MINI-BOYS (12 yrs & under) MAXIMUM 3 Teams	$100.00	$500.00 + Plaque	$250.00 + Plaque
STUDENT GIRLS (17 yrs & under) MAXIMUM 6 Teams	$200.00	$1,000.00 + Plaque	$500.00 + Plaque
STUDENT BOYS (17 yrs & under) MAXIMUM 6 Teams	$200.00	$1,000.00 + Plaque	$500.00 + Plaque
OPEN WOMEN'S (18 yrs & over) MAXIMUM 6 Teams	$500.00	$2,500.00 + Plaque	$1,500.00 + Plaque
OPEN MEN'S (18 yrs & over) MAXIMUM 6 Teams	$500.00	$2,500.00 + Plaque	$1,500.00 + Plaque
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HARD WORK PAID OFF FOR ENTREPRENEUR

I noticed you have done some stories on entrepreneurs lately and I want to share my story for those who are thinking about starting their own business.

I started a video store in Chisasibi two years ago. Like a lot of businesses I started out from my basement. I soon grew out of my basement. When the other video store in town closed, my clientele grew and the basement was just too cramped.

In April of 1997, I approached Ernie Gray of *Haida Kloo*, a business consultation firm that was in town doing training for new entrepreneurs. He then helped me set up my accounting program. Then he offered to help me do the business plan.

There are a lot of people who say, "I should start a business." I was there also but the difference is I went ahead. If I didn't move out of the basement I would have sold the business because of the hassle of having customers coming in and out of my house, especially with raising a young family. My customers needed a better and bigger place to rent videos. I wanted to get a building to establish my business.

As I wrote my business plan, I contacted the Band Council to get a resolution for my lot and building. It took longer than I thought. I got on the agenda for a band meeting and it was passed. I finally got my business loans and grants from various agencies. I got my pre-fab building transported from Radisson. It took a month to renovate and set up. I opened on November 14.

I am still working on odd jobs and setting up accounts with my suppliers. It has been a lot of hard work and effort to get my store in place. There are a lot of little things that come up but you have to keep plugging away. I got frustrated many times but all the hard work will pay off. There is a lot of support for my business from the people of Chisasibi. I want to thank the Cree Nation of Chisasibi, Haida Kloo, Eyyou Economic Group, Wiichiituun Development Corporation and my family, for believing in me and my dream, and the people of Chisasibi.

I hope that my example will inspire more people to start their own businesses. You have to go beyond hoping. Start your business plan and think carefully about what you want. There are a lot of opportunities if you give it a try. We have to support our local business. It benefits the workers and the families and the community. Everyone will benefit in the long run. If you have a dream go with it. Don't let anyone get you down.

James Hill is an entrepreneur who owns VJ's Video in Chisasibi.

by James Hill

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ON THE COVER
MONTREAL CHILLS OUT
photo: William Nicholls

RE4NOTES

It's probably just a rumour that the devil himself was witnessed a while back walking into the hottest, so to speak, night spot in Chibougamau ordering a drink and proceeding to walk through a wall with his demonic tail disappearing. Good for him. I've been there. I was heading there with a friend in a cab. Our driver was speeding for some reason known only to him and ran a red light. The cops gave chase. He stopped in front of the place in question. We got out with the cops' lights flashing behind us. Someone, the coatcheck girl, actually thought we were Somebody.

Now why would the devil want go to Chibougamau? You'd think he would go someplace more glamourous like, say, New York or Val d'Or. If I was the devil you'd never catch me anywhere near Chibougamau. The great Erland S. Campbell tells us that the devil was also spotted in a Northern Manitoba Indian bar buying drinks for one of Erland's friends. Erland never lies.

- It's probably not a just rumor though that the great chef Jean Cuisine got a black eye for Christmas from one of his loved ones following a violent scuffle at a staff party, say our beloved sources in the Cuisine camp.

- Dr. Billy Diamond was overheard saying that Waskaganish will get an access road sometime this year. He is also reported to have said that he will "let" Matthew Coon Come and maybe the federal Transport Minister announce it before the whole world for "brownie points." The road will cost a measly 37 million and will probably be manned by armed security personel 24 hours a day.

- Hydro-Quebec will be licking its wounds for some time thanks to "The Great Ice Storm of 98." People back home were of course completely unaffected by the storm and had a good laugh at HQ's expense. One guy said he was going to call HQ's HQ to taunt, "See?, See??" The great storm also confirmed to the more militant-minded Crees just how vulnerable the Evil Empire can be.

- There was another UFO sighting near the LG-1 dam over the holidays. Two young Crees were in their car near the river when they saw a multicoloured light hovering above the river. More details in a future instalment.

- The Portage is a new magazine published in Waskaganish. The fax says that it will publish nothing but positive stories and that its mission is to "build up rather than tear down. To create rather than destroy. To be positive when others are negative. To provide hope when it seems there is none." Good for them. We'll handle all the bad news. Our mission? To tear down, then build up. To create and destroy. To be negative when others are too positive.

- A message to you from my higher-ups: Send in your "love messages and love stories" for Valentine's Day. Deadline for the special Valentine's Issue: Jan. 20. Get on it quick!

by Ndiamon

the Nation

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45 Natives dead in Mexican massacre

In Acteal, Mexico, the Zapatistas are once again under siege. The holiday season saw 45 people murdered. Twenty-one of them were women, nine were men, 14 children and one baby under a year old were gunned down.

The gunmen stormed the town, killing people in the church and then hunting down survivors in their homes and the nearby hills.

Subcomandante Insurgente Marcos of the Zapatatas denounced the action saying that the government is responsible as they financed the paramilitary forces in the Mexican state of Chiapas.

He also accuses the Mexican government of investigating the very crime they caused and said justice is not possible in this case. He points out that the "war cry" of the federal and paramilitary forces translates to "we are going to wipe out the Zapatista seed." This is taken by many to mean that there are intentions to wipe out the indigenous communities in Mexico.

The Mexican government, according to Marcos, had sent a message ending with the following, "I would rather go down in history as an oppressor than honour the accords with the ELZN (Zapatistas)."

Mexico's Chiapas Governor Julio Cesar Ruiz Ferro resigned after being criticized for his handling of the massacre. The killing took place over a four-hour period. A secretary to the governor reportedly told him about it several times while it was happening. The opposition party says this shows a direct involvement on the government's part. They are saying the Mexican governnment organized these death squads.

In the midst of all the "Ice Storm '98" turmoil, the Canadian Trade Mmission quietly left for Mexico. Much to the ire of some Natives, two groups of Native entrepeuners, the Kahnawakhe Band Council and Cree Construction, are tagging along with the Canadian mission to Latin America.

Livingston, a spokesperson for Cree Construction, told *The Nation* he had just heard about the massacre but there was no indication it would be "affecting the trip." Livingston said Cree Construction people would only be staying in Mexico City for a couple of days. "Then it's on to Brazil, Sal Paulo and Buenos Aires." He said no Natives had approached them about the trip.

The Mohawk community, though, is up in arms about the massacre and a proposed "Oaxaca-Kahnawake Trade and Commerce Convention (Project O.K.)"

The massacre, though, is what stands out in some Native minds. Violet Quinney, a Cree from Saskatchewan, and John Goodleaf, a Kahnawake Mohawk, have joined forces to raise money for the survivors of the massacre. To date they have raised over $4,000. During Ice Storm '98, they organized a protest march to the Mexican consulate. About 100 people showed up. It seemed dark and desolate until a spraypaint can made the scene.

Only two were supposed to enter the consulate but the demonstrators stormed the open doors. Given the weather outside this would have been no surprise. They laid a coffin down representing the massacred Indians. After a fax was sent off to the Mexican government, the protestors left quietly. Quinney says that more is needed.

People who are interested in helping can call 514-635-5719 and ask for Violet.

by William Nicholls

Break-in at Chisasibi church

The St. Philips Anglican Church in Chisasibi was broken into on two occasions during the Christmas holidays. There was no major damage to report except for the doors and ceiling tiles, though there was desecration of some of the objects in the church.

The first break-in occurred before Christmas. Reverend Jacob Sealhunter said the perpetrator(s) entered the church by forcing the back door on the eastern side of the building. It is unknown whether anything was stolen. No wine or money is kept at the church. The candles by the altar had been lit. The bible at the altar had burns on the corner of the pages.

The doors leading to some of the rooms had been locked so some doors were forced or ceiling tiles knocked down so the intrudor(s) could climb the wall and gain access to the room.

Again on the evening of the 1st of January the church was broken into. Again there was nothing reported stolen. There were, however, candy wrappers littering the church. There was also a used condom found on the floor. These acts prompted the clergy to go on the air, on the local radio, to let the people know about the crime.

Reverend Sealhunter expressed his wishes that these persons do not do it again. He added that he has nothing against these people and he is "willing to talk to him or them. Nothing is stopping them from coming to church. It is an important part of the community and should be respected."

North Bay to host tournament

Hockey tournament fever is spreading to North Bay. The city will host its first-ever Native hockey conference Jan. 30 to Feb. 1 at the Pete Palangio Arena and Memorial Gardens.

Twenty four teams will face off in the Northern Star Unity Cup, which offers over $15,000 in prizes and awards.

The tournament is the brainchild of Charlie Small, who was born in Waskaganish and raised in Moose Factory. He's lived in North Bay eight years where he coaches minor hockey and works as a student counselor to the 100-odd Cree kids who go to school in town.

continued on page 7

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Sparks fly at Indian Affairs ceremony

Phil Fontaine accused of "jumping in bed" with Feds

The guests expected a solemn and dignified ceremony to mark the beginning of "reconciliation." Instead, they got World War Three, as one surprised guest put it.

The event in question was Canada's official burying of the hatchet with Native people. After a year of waiting, the government finally responded to the many recommendations of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. Words of forgiveness and apology were spoken. The peace pipe was puffed.

But most of the guests were far from happy and didn't hide their anger during the ceremony. Some are gunning for the head of Phil Fontaine, National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, who helped design the reconciliation package.

"Phil was totally by himself," said one guest. "It was embarassing. He looked ridiculous. This was clearly a disaster."

"It's obvious the love-in between the AFN and Indian Affairs has not been as productive as we thought it would be," said Harry Daniels, head of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples.

Daniels represents 800,000 Metis, off-reserve and non-treaty Natives. He says his members were ignored by the government's so-called Aboriginal Action Plan.

The key part of the plan was a $350-million "healing program" for people struggling with their residential-school experiences. Stewart acknowledged the wrongs of the past.

But was it an outright, formal apology? Some people are still not sure. Many believe the government is afraid a formal apology would lead to millions of dollars in costly lawsuits by those who endured abuses in the schools.

Indian Affairs also plans a $126-million infrastructure plan for First Nations and may pardon hanged Metis leader Louis Riel.

Native leaders say the plan doesn't come close to meeting the calls of the Royal Commission and the needs of Native people.

"If they (the AFN) are satisfied, that's fine. I was elected to fight for my people, not jump in bed with the government," said Daniels. "It's very obvious the other (major Native) groups were dissatisfied. This was not a response to the Royal Comission and there was not an apology. If we're going to be partners, let's be partners."

Of the healing plan, Daniels said, "It's not enough for anything, anyway. It won't even clear up the problem in Winnipeg."

Armand MacKenzie, a lawyer for the Innu of Nitassinan, said it's good the government is acknowledging past wrongs, but the money promised merely returns funds that were cut in previous years. "They're giving you with one hand what they took with the other hand."

The government's new plan does very little on another important question: land claims. MacKenzie sees nothing positive in Stewart's plan for the Innu land claim, which has been pursued for 20 years.

"The same old policy is there: extinguishment," he said. "There needs to a fundamental review (of the land-claims policy). It's not just fine-tuning. We need real change."

by Alex Roslin

Next issue: The Cree reaction

continued from page 5

"It's on its way," he said, now that the idea has become a reality. "It's looking good. The students are really excited about it. The community itself has been very cooperative."

Small hopes the tournament will continue on a yearly basis and plans to invite scouts to check out the talent. "The main focus is to promote our youth, not only in education but also in hockey. It will give them an incentive to work harder in school and in their sport."

Matthew Blacksmith, who is helping to organize the event, used to be director of the Cree Nation Invitational Tournament. He left in 1995 to go to school in North Bay, where he is finishing a program in recreation and leadership at Canadore College. He figures $50,000 is needed to fund the event, money he hopes the city and local businesses will kick in to help make it a success.

Big threat from global warming

While Quebec recovers from the Ice Age of 1998, more bad news is on the way on the weather front. Environment Canada has released a new report warning of the effects of global warming.

Warming caused by pollution will cause illness and deaths if nothing is done to stop it, says Environment Canada.

Climate change could cause the extinction of entire species, like the Polar bear and caribou, says the report. Certain types of plantlife and fish will die off, too. The study foresees the disappearance of over a third of the Canadian tundra, and more natural disasters.

Most vulnerable to the climate changes are children and Elders, those with chronic illnesses, people in weak health

Environmentalists point out that Canada is one of the world's worst biggest greatest producers of greenhouse gases.

How to prevent CO poisoning

Tips from the Cree Health Board on carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning: While no fatalities have been reported in Creedom, earlier this year a hunter in Abitibi died from CO poisoning due to a defective propane fridge. Deaths have also resulted from a defective heating

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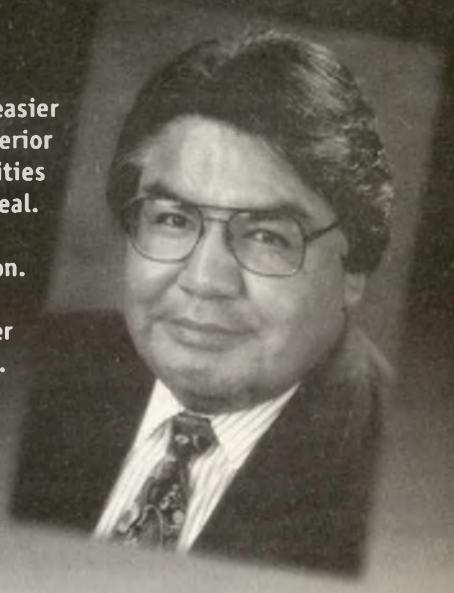

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continued from page 7

system and a vehicle stuck in the snow.

Some safety tips:

1. If you are doing maintenance of small motor tools or snowmobiles in the basement or garage, don't run the motor indoors.

2. Don't leave a vehicle motor running in a garage, even if the door is open.

3. When there is an electricity failure, some people use campstoves... Just don't use them inside or try to use them as heating devices.

4. If your vehicle becomes stuck in the snow, make sure the exhaust is clear and do not run the engine continuously.

5. Make sure that propane fridges and stoves are well-maintained; newer models come with an integrated CO alarm.

6. Wood-burning stoves: Is the heat exchanger clean and airtight? Is there enough air intake? Are pipes and chimneys clean?

Talks take 100 years to start

The people of two Saskatchewan First Nations who saw their land unlawfully taken almost 100 years ago are finally getting a hearing from Indian Affairs.

The people of the Moosomin First Nation, near Battleford, were under tremenous pressure from settlers and politicians to surrender their reserve in the late 1800s. The reserve was located

on 15,360 acres of some of the best farming land in Saskatchewan.

In 1909, after refusing to surrender their land several times, they succumbed to the pressure in a vote that may have been fraudulent. The band was relocated against its will to a remote area that was described as "hilly, stony, in a frost belt and practially useless as a farming proposition." The band's livelihood was destroyed.

After Indian Affairs rejected the band's land claim, the Moosomin appealed to the Indian Claims Commission. In May 1997, the commission condemned the government for its role in the surrender, calling it "foolish, improvident and exploitative."

The government finally agreed to negotiate last month.

The case of the Moosomin is just one of many reviewed by the commission.

Another is the 1907 surrender of the Kahkewistahaw First Nation, 130 km east of Regina. This band was in the same situation, on prime land coveted by others. After relentless pressure, they were relocated to a steep escarpment of the Qu'Appelle Valley on land completely unsuited to the farming way of life they had adopted. The First Nation argued that the surrender was made under duress, in the middle of the winter when the community was ravaged by illness and had no food. Indian Affairs initially rejected this claim too, but agreed to negotiate after the Indian Claims Commission looked into the case.

The Homalco people of Bute Inlet and Campbell River, B.C., were not as lucky. The commission accused Canada of failing to protect their interest from outside interests, but Indian Affairs rejected their claim and said it won't negotiate.

JFK: The mystery revealed

by William Nicholls

books

Normally I wouldn't have the time of day to consider, let alone read, an autobiography. I have found most autobiographies to be pompous, self-serving regurgitation of their life's best moments, including "how I crawled out of a ditch in a drunken self induced drug stupor and turned it around to become the success I am today."

Frank Ragano, the lawyer who spent 30 years working for Florida's Mafia and labor leader Jimmy Hoffa, makes none of the mistakes of trying to write the book alone. Ragano instead enlists the assistance of Selwyn Raab, a *New York Times* reporter who covered the Mafia for over 20 years.

The combination of the two is what makes this book work. Well, to be truthful the content helps a lot.

It is an inside look at how the mob moved into Cuba just before and during the time Fidel Castro was a loser rebel in the hills, how the mob links to the Labor movement operated to drain funds and others. The book alleges that it may have been Teamster boss Jimmy Hoffa and the Mafia who assassinated U.S. President JFK. Oliver Stone, eat your heart out.

Hoffa's disappearance is directly laid at the feet of the mob. His replacement was more generous with Teamster money to mob-owned construction goons.

The book also tells of the Kennedy brothers' sexual escapades. In the years before he became attorney-general, it is said Robert Kennedy spent a night with three Cuban prostitutes in a mob-owned hotel while a top Mafia boss watched through a one-way mirror.

Hey, hey, you say. Where's the bullet to the head? The omerta, the Mafia code of silence, has been violated. Ragano is almost 70 years old and after having a heart attack says he has nothing to fear any more. He wrote, "It's my destiny to tell this story no matter what the consequences."

The finished product is good, not a must-read but a pleasant surprise that kept me reading from cover to cover twice.

Mob Lawyer
By Frank Ragano and Selwyn Raab
Maxwell Macmillan Canada
Toronto, 1994

THE BIG CHILL

by Erland "Ice" Campbell

The Prince of Darkness possesses Montreal. The Twilight Zone befalls all citizens. A prelude to The Great Tribulation as mentioned in Revelation?

Call it what you like, but the so called "Ice Storm of '98," "Storm of the Century," is a phenomenon of great proportions caused partly by that nasty boy "El Nino." After all, we have to blame someone, or something. Mother Nature sometimes gives its children a good whippin' to humble them. We are all at her mercy.

It's unfortunate that we need a shock like this to bring people together. People helping people, strangers becoming friends, neighbours finally meeting each other. The human spirit rules over our petty indifferences. We all need a swift kick on our collective behinds to reveal ourselves as we truly are, human beings caring for each other, crossing all boundaries of race, religion, background and any other differences we have.

I happened to be lucky. I only lost power for about eight hours. It gave me the chance to understand what many Quebecers are going through, however brief. I live in N.D.G., one of the hardest hit areas in Montreal, and my street looks like a twister touched down. Large trees look like someone picked the tops off like broccoli. A huge missed my car by about two feet. Cars were frozen where they sat, people taking pictures, video-taping the devastation. It is a sight I will never forget.

Early Wednesday morning around 3 a.m., I had to take a walk. The wind was strong, ice pellets thrashed against my face and I marveled at the trees coated with ice. It was a surreal experience. There was little traffic. As I walked down the middle of the street, I could see and hear branches cracking and then crashing to the street. These sounds would also be heard from the next street over. I was amazed to see branches strewn about the streets, some on cars, huge branches hanging precariously from the trunks, and the glistening ice on everything it fell upon. It was a beautiful yet destructive sight to behold.

In conclusion, my heart goes out to the thousands of people who are cold as I write this. It is a terrible thing to hear the stories on the radio, to see the devastation around me and on televiosion, and especially the old people who have to be helped from their freezing homes. Young children sufferas well.

I think in times like these we should look to God for strength, and to realize that the physical things in life are secondary to the spiritual. That, in the end, is more important than material things. This storm is not only a reality, but is a warm-up, a test for things to come.

OUT IN THE COLD

by Stella Lameboy & Nancy Bobbish

Monday, January 5th. Just arrived from La Grande airport 2 1/2 hours behind schedule. It was a dark and stormy night. Did not realize that this was a prelude to... (drum roll) The Storm of the Century.

Unwelcome guest at Nancy's home.

I (Stella) came home to a well-lit and warm apartment, only to awake to a cold and dark one. This was to last longer than I thought was possible. Called up my friend Nancy, who also lives in the NDG area to find out if God was only punishing me for something. The answer was no, she was being punished as well. To our great surprise, the entire area was being hit hard. I packed up my bags and planted myself in Nancy's living room where we still remain. As we write this, we are going on eight days without electricity and heat, with no relief in the near future. Luckily, her home has a fireplace, gas oven and hot water. Kinda like going in the bush, in the middle of the city.

Three days into the storm, we diagnosed ourselves as suffering from a serious ailment known as cabin fever. We layered ourselves with clothing, inch-thick socks and what we thought were good boots and headed for the last frontier: downtown. This was what we consider the most stupid thing we could have done during the storm, and we paid for

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NO PROBLEMO IN KAHNAWAKE

by Catherine Bainbridge

On Day 9 of the crisis, the south shore of Montreal is in a state of emergency. Half a million people are being evacuated.

But how are the 7,000 Mohawks of Kahnawake, who are also on the south shore? They are fine.

"It is definitely not a state of emergency here," said Davis Rice, a Chief on the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake, where 80 per cent of the community has been without power for nine days now. "It is an inconvenience and a bit scary for some people, but we are prepared and no one is in danger."

Rice said many old people still use wood and gas stoves and other community members have generators and alternate light sources.

"We are joking that many people haven't eaten this well in a long time," said Rice. "People are cooking up a storm because they have to eat all their moose steaks from the freezer.

Rice said when the Canadian Army called yesterday to offer to clean-up, "we politely refused, because we had already picked up all the debris."

Rice said Mohawks have learned a big lesson from the crisis. "I think we realized how dependent we have become on hydro."

Supreme court shocker

The highest court of the land has made an important and surprising decision that will affect all First Nations in some way or other. In a decision that shocked many, the Supreme Court of Canada has recognized that Native oral law is just as valid as any written law enacted by a government.

This simple idea has brought the Canadian and B.C. governments to their knees before the Gitxsan-Wet'suwe'ten people. Since 1848, their rights on the land were denied by the governments and companies while they watched the forests being chewed up and their very way of life menaced. Their oral traditions that told of their relationship with the land were tossed out of court and deemed invalid.

Now, after the longest trial in Canada's history, Native oral tradition has been upheld, a precedent for all Native people in this country and beyond. Don Ryan, chief negotiator for the Gitxsan, says Natives should study the case and use it to protect their interests. Involved in the case for over 20 years, Ryan said his people owe thanks to Cree leaders in their struggle, particularly Chief Billy Diamond for his work on the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, and Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come, another inspiration in his life.

delgamuukw the revolution has started

By Alex Roslin

***The Nation*: What was the court case about?**

Don Ryan: The whole issue is the traditional territories we've got. In this case there's two tribes involved, the Gitxsan and the Wet'suwe'ten. In total it's 22,000 square miles for both nations. The issue in the court was that the Gitxsan still have an interest in the land. The province has always said all of our interests were extinguished when sovereignty was asserted in British Columbia, when the colonies were set up in 1848.

I remember some of their arguments for this were that the Gitxsan have windows, TVs and indoor plumbing.

Yes, that was the frozen-rights argument. That was dismissed. They sent that down the tidy bowl.

What was won in the Supreme Court case?

There were several issues we were dealing with. Firstly, the court allowed in part our appeal of an earlier B.C. Court of Appeal decision regarding our land claim. The second question the court dealt with was the province's cross-appeal, in which B.C. sued Canada for not dealing with our issue. That cross-appeal was dismissed. And the third thing the court did was order a new trial.

What does it mean for Aboriginal people?

Oh, geez, there are lots of different significant things in the decision. The big issue for us was to say that the Gitxsan have Aboriginal title to the land. What we were trying to get them to wrap their heads around is that the Gitxsan actually have their own ideas as to how title is established in law, in Gitxsan law, through oral histories and all the oral laws. We've got the notion of title and the notion of law.

The court really addresses that. They say, yes, the Gitxsan had laws before the Europeans showed up and introduced common law into the area. So both Gitxsan law and common law are protected by Section 35 of the Constitution.

"Both Gitxsan law and common law are protected by Section 35 of the Constitution."

I think the gains we made on Aboriginal title are very important because (they recognized) we have a proprietary interest in everything. It isn't just on the reserve. It's off-reserve as well. In forests, for example, it's very clear that Aboriginal people have an interest in the trees. And not just for Aboriginal purposes. You could use it for commercial purposes now, which hammers the frozen-rights argument to pieces.

The court agrees oral law has the same status as written law.

Yes, as common law.

Does that apply to all First Nations?

CARTOON REPRINTED FROM THE MONTREAL GAZETTE

"I was in shock. I was anticipating something completely different."

-Gitxsan negotiator Don Ryan

Oh, sure. The decision starts to spell that out. It doesn't come to a final conclusion, but it talks about all those issues. One of the things they ordered is a retrial on self-government because the judge in the first trial didn't deal with the evidence we put forward properly. Now, with the retrial, we are going to have to reintroduce all that evidence and show to the court what we mean in terms of Gitxsan laws and how we set up our own government.

In a way, this could change the entire the relationship with Canada.

That's right. The decision wasn't a knock-out punch for us. That's not how the court works. It's very rare the court will give you that knock-out punch. If the court said we uphold the whole appeal, the Gitxsan have absolute title, they have self-government, the whole world would collapse! (*laughs*)...

Have you heard any reactions yet?

Oh, there's all kinds of reactions. Well, the government won't talk to us. You'll see, the government works really slow. It's not going to move quickly on this.

The court also said we have a proprietary interest in the land. That's a definitive statement that everybody's been skirting for years. That means we have a proprietary interest in all the commodities on our land. It isn't just your Aboriginal activities that are protected. You actually have an interest in the land...

Before the court case started in the 1980s, we launched what is called a "leave pendance" on all the properties on our land. All we wanted to do was put a notation on those documents so when somebody buys a piece of property they'll see the Gitxsans have Aboriginal title on this property. You can just imagine that, getting that in the mail. We lost that case before, but now we could re-do this case. Part of what I wanted to demonstrate was if a person buys a piece of property, they can't stop the Gitxsan from going there to fish. They should see this right on the property papers, that the Indians have access rights.

This is the significance of the case. It opens so many opportunities for people to demonstrate your interests on the ground.

"It's got implications for people in the Middle East, indigenous peoples right around the world. It applies right across North America, Central America, South America."

Are there a lot of non-Natives living in your territory?

Yes. The Wet'suwe'ten are outnumbered 10-to-1. There are about 3,000 of them and at least 30,000 non-Natives. In the Gitxsan territory, we're 10,000 and we're still the majority here--about 70 per cent of the population.

Part of what we're doing is to give proper standing to the traditional government. That's what the case really does for us. It's very significant that the court recognizes the traditional laws, the traditional form of self-government and where we could go with this. It gives us the potential we can use. The point I make to our people is you take the decision and you create the situation you want. For example, we have an interest in all the fish. We have an interest in the environment.

Have you been involved with this for a long time?

I've been chief negotiator since 1994, but I've been involved right from the beginning, 1975-6. It's been a long time. It's been one of my babies.

How did you feel when you heard the decision?

I was in shock. I was anticipating something completely different. I could see if we had pressed the issue harder in terms of title and governance they would have moved away from us. But because of the problems we had with the earlier judge's decision, that gave us a second opportunity.

Part of my effort now is to try to get people to appreciate what was said (by the court). The federal government--there's nobody in the federal government; it's just a void. It's the same thing with the province. That's the difference between the two systems. Whereas, here it's very intimate. We're real people who we're talking about. Who am I talking to across the table? It's just the Crown, some nebulous entity. How are they going to react to the decision? We'll see what happens.

I'm pleased in terms of what the potential is. What we have to do is create the situation to reflect what we see inside the decision, not to reflect what we think they said. That's a completely different approach. It's got implications for people in the Middle East, indigenous peoples right around the world. It applies right across North America, Central and South America. Everybody's watching this.

From here to there, Téléb

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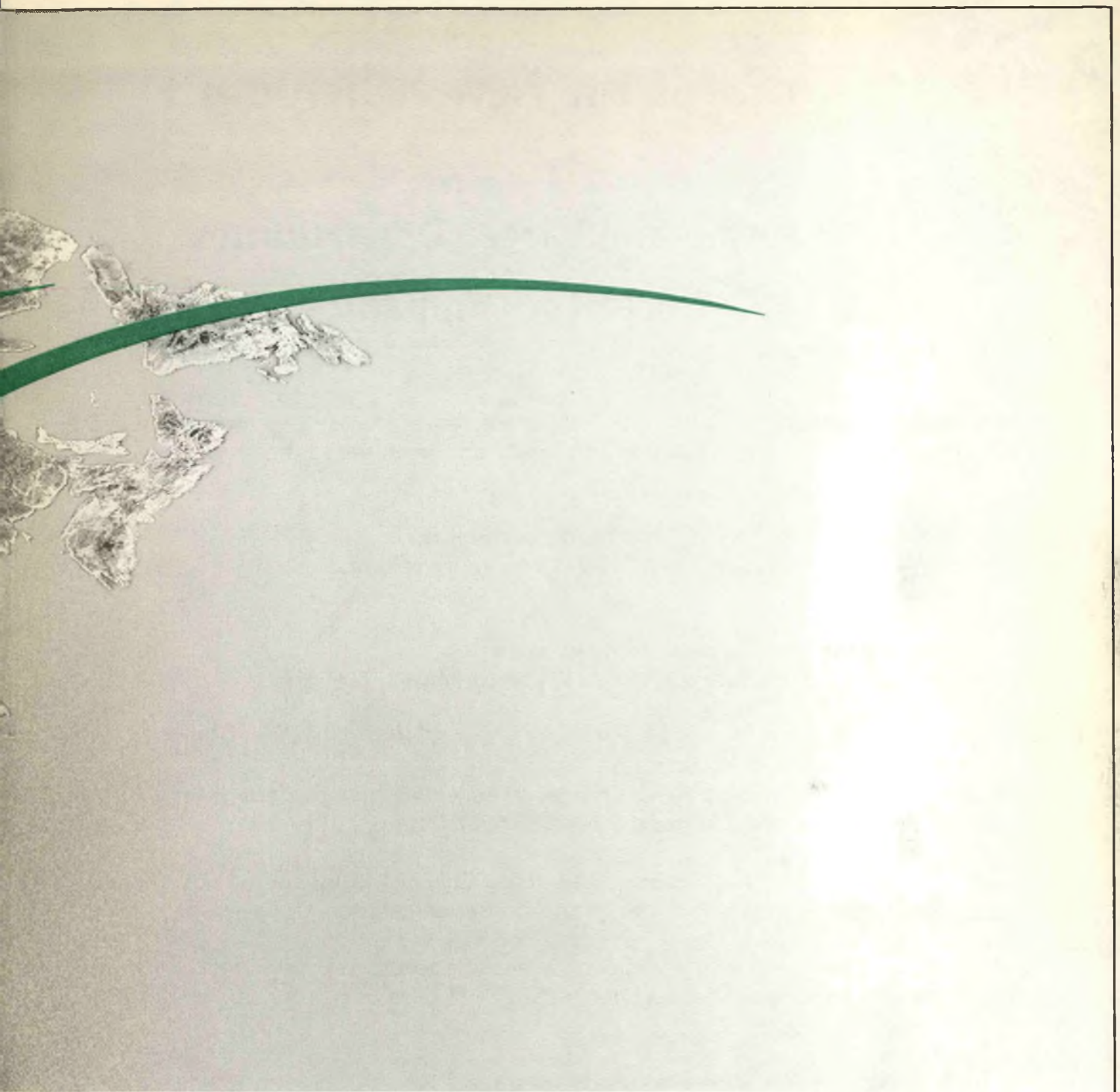
From Island lobster fishing to mining in Abitibi, all businesses have one thing in common. They're able to stay on the move with the Télébec network.

By adapting telecommunication solutions to the needs of business, Télébec connects partners and contributes to the economic strength of our regions.



ec makes the connection.

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Towards the New Millenium...

Training and Career Opportunites at Cree Co. Companies

Cree Co. and its subsidiaries employ over 530 people. We are looking for Aboriginal People who would be interested in training and career opportunities in the following areas:

Servinor:
Administration, purchasing, selling, marketing, accounting
Please call President Abel Kitchen 819-825-7175 for more information

Cree Construction:
Carpentry, construction, accounting, administration
Please call President Steven Bearskin 514-738-3414 for more information.

Air Creebec:
Accounting, management, administration
* Also special training is offered by Air Creebec to become a qualified airline Pilot.
  Please call President Albert Diamond 1-800-567-6567 for more information

If you are interested in training opportunities at any CREE CO. company, do not hesitate to call. The only requirement is that you be of Aboriginal ancestry.

Important Note: Cree Co. company Presidents want to encourage young Crees to consider working for their companies. They will be meeting with Cree post-secondary students on the following dates:

February 2nd: Montreal
February 3rd: Ottawa
February 4th: North Bay
February 5th: Sudbury

Check with the Cree School Board Post Secondary office near you to confirm locations and times.

This fourth instalment of the Entrepreneurial series has been sponsored by Cree Co.

ENTREPRENEURIAL SERIES PART FOUR *by S. Lameboy & N. Bobbish*

Getting Down to Business

So you're ready to start a business!! You know your idea. You have a name for your business.

Now, what the heck do you do?

Start by asking yourself the following question: Do I start my business with .....

A. My own money (saved or borrowed from friends, family)

B. A loan

Which one do you choose? Of course, everyone would rather use someone ELSE'S money - if it was easy. But, of course, it never is.

"If you require a loan, a detailed business plan would have to be developed," says Robert Kitchen of Eeyou Economic Group, the Cree lending and business support group. "You've really got to sit down with somebody who has knowledge in developing business plans that will be acceptable to financial institutions."

$1 million for Cree businesses next year

In the coming year, Eeyou Economic Group (EEG) wants to invest $1 million in Cree small businesses. "We want to develop about 30 business plans in 1998," says Kitchen, adding he wishes to work in collaboration with The Cree Youth Council to develop more young entrepreneurs.

Kitchen also says he will try and work closely with the CRA, (the CRA Co-operative Fund Agreement lends up to 50% in start-up money) and Aboriginal Business Canada (which has $5 million to spend on Aboriginal businesses in Quebec this year).

"By all working together, we can get more projects on their feet," says Kitchen.

In Chisasibi, Wiitchiiduun recently ran a workshop with eight residents, helping each of them to develop their own business plans.

"The communities could do more to help people in that way," says Kitchen. "Most of the economic development officers have to spend a lot of time on community business projects, so it doesn't leave them much time to help out small entrepreneurs."

WHY DO BUSINESSES FAIL ?

50% of businesses fail in their first year. And the majority of small businesses do not survive beyond five years. But, don't dwell on the negative. Did you know that some of the biggest millionaires in the United States started and failed several businesses before they found one that worked.

THE #1 REASON

The number one reason businesses fail is because of lack of proper planning. Your business has the best chance of success if you plan out every detail before you start.

DO IT YOURSELF

A professional business plan *can be a complicated thing. Some people go to universities and get degrees in this field. Don't worry. Start by doing your own. A simple one. Then, if you need a loan, get your local economic development group or EEG to help turn your plan into a professional one. (Don't be Shy. This is their job).*

Below we list the basic questions you should answer for any business plan. This can take a while. So do it over a few coffees. Or a few weeks. Or a few months.

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESITONS.

1. What is your business? Write it in a few lines.

2. How will your business affect the community? What will it bring people? Why is it good for your town? Why do people need it?

3. What is your location? Are you going to rent commercial space? Buy a used trailer? Build a shack? Build your own expensive building? Do it out of your basement?

4.What equipment do you need? Get some quotes on prices.

5. Describe the product(s) and/or service(s) you will sell.

6. Do you need people to work for you? What will each of them do? Who would be good - reliable and hard working? Do you have a bookkeeper?

7.What will you pay your employees?

8. Do you need suppliers? Go and visit them or call them. Get some prices. Also, how much credit will they give you (30 days? 60days? Will you have to pay cash up front for the first delivery?).

9. What will your prices be? How much do people pay elsewhere? Can you charge a lower price and still make a profit? Or if you charge a higher price what MORE are you giving people for their money? Better service, better product, better selection, more convenient?

10. Estimate how much people buy per month? How much money will come in? Ask as many people as you can in your town. Then assume the worst. Don't assume everyone will buy from you right away.

11. Now list all your costs? (workers, rent, utilities, supplies, loan, administrative costs etc.)

12. How will you pay for these things?

13. If you don't have cash coming in for the first few months, what will you do?

14. Do you need or want a partner? Do you share the same views, same objectives, can you communicate well together?

10. If your costs are higher than the money you have - you'll need a loan. Can you drop your costs? Find cheaper ways to start?

11. Sit down and talk to people who are already in business. They will give you invaluable help.

12. If you can you save and/or borrow enough money to start on your own, then finish this business plan and JUST DO IT.

Charlie Brien's Family now runs the restaurant and he's back in the bush.

Tips from Winners

Toboggans to restaurants

This is your typical rags to riches story. Charlie Brien, a Cree from Mistissini, started building his restaurant business back in 1970. He didn't start off with any grants, a large cash stake or even a high school diploma. What he had was more than that. He had a desire and the ambition to fulfill it.

Brien's initial investment was two Coleman stoves. "With one Coleman stove, I made hamburgers and hotdogs, and the other one was for coffee and tea," remembers Brien.

He had worked three summers in the U.S. before opening his own place. It was there that Brien met his mentor, in the form of his boss. He remembers the owner telling him, "I didn't have any money when I started this. I just had a wheelbarrow and went to the construction sites selling coffee, pop and sandwiches."

One year, Brien went home and asked his family if they would like to set up a restaurant in the community 600 kilometres north of Montreal. "Everybody was jumping, O.K., let's go," said Brien. It was time to put the lessons to work. He remembers that in those early days one of the first schools in Mistissini was being built. He spoke to the foreman about coming over with coffee, pop, sandwiches and homemade donuts. The foreman was enthusiastic, Brien recalls. Workers had been going home for coffee breaks and this ate into construction time. "I had a toboggan and a two-gallon thermos. I went in the morning and afternoon," said Brien about his humble beginnings.

Brien's first building was so small that only six people could fit in his coffee shop. Today he admits to being surprised at seeing how much business at Denise Restaurant has grown. He has a full modern kitchen, with a walk-in freezer and seating capacity for 85. Brien said he expanded on the average every five to six years. "I thought about making it bigger, saved money and then did it," said Brien. It was only 10 years ago that Brien felt he could start relaxing a bit.

Now Brien has gone back to live a more traditional life in the bush. His children have taken over the business and he comes back once a month to check on how the restaurant is doing. He considers himself as more in an advisory position these days.

— William Nicholls

In an earlier instalment of the Entrepreneirual series, we profiled Roger Orr and his new business, the 4 in 1, in Nemaska.

This issue, we return to Roger for some of his personal tips on how to start and manage a successful business.

• **Anybody can start a business** — But you have to check if it's feasible. You have to study and know your potential clients. Do research. Ask for help. You can start with the "Canadian Standards Statistics" but don't forget that the "standard family" is different from the family in the North.

• **Go step by step** — you don't have to do everything at once. Do trial runs and learn from them. Before his official opening, Roger tried hot dogs at the 4 in 1, and they didn't go well, so he dropped them. No big deal.

• **Partnerships can be the key to success.** For example, Roger handles the operational side of things, while his wife, Linda, deals with the financing, bookkeeping and accounting. Neither of them could do without the other.

• **Business is about maintaining good relationships.** When Roger and Linda started their video club, they worked with a middleman to order their tapes. Eventually they outgrew him, and they wanted to have more control over choosing their stock. But they parted on good terms, sending him moccassins and a thank-you note for helping them.

•**Before you sign, play-off competition.** Don't be afraid to shop around. People will make deals when they know there's someone else in the picture. That's what Roger did when he bought his video game equipment, and he came out with a great deal.

• **Hand-pick employees.** "They are key. You can't force people do their job well. That's why you have to pick the right people," says Roger. For example, Roger's happy he found Peggy Wapachee to cook for him. He depends on her experience to run the kichen. "She knows tons that I didn't — like running the equipment, how to do the potatoes..." He also brought in help to redesign his place: Kirby Blackned, an interior decorator who helped choose the paint, the colours and the design for the murals — aliens and super-heroes.

• **Start small, but think big.** Don't be afraid to expand - everything must grow. Roger's now planning a music show in his space to see how it goes. He sees potential in turning the space into a regular venue for Cree talent. Who knows? the 4 in 1 may soon become the 5 in 1.

Is there a future in Cree Enterprises? In our home land, there are only a few businesses that are owned and operated by natives.

Many entrepreneurs believe that James Bay is the land of opportunity because of its natural resources and the market being in its pioneer stage.

For example, Native Tourism will grow to be one of the most important industries in Canada. This sector of the market has not yet reachered its full potential the Cree have to offer. Hence, we have the opportunity to promote our culture to the world.

We have to take risks to boldly go where no Cree has gone before. The more diversity that can be achieved in our marketplace, the stronger our economy will become. With a stronger economy, we will be closer to the vision our leaders collectively share as an independent Nation.

Remember, the need is there. The market is there. The resources are there. We have the people that can make this become a reality. All you have to do is say and believe "I can do it!" YES, there is a future in Cree Enterprises.

Chisasibi Centre Inc.

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it dearly.

We got downtown only to find it deserted. Quite a creepy site. We walked in a sea of ice for a few blocks and then gave up. Mother Nature was against us. We headed home. The following morning, a huge tree decided to pay us a visit by dropping itself on our doorstep. It took three people to remove the unwanted presence from our only exit.

A week later, still no power. We are keeping ourselves busy by reaching out and touching people via telephone. No, not the sick, twisted way. We behaved ourselves this time. But one thing that did surprise and anger us was the apparent lack of concern by the organization that is suppose to look out for Cree students here in Montreal.

After a few days without electricity it dawned on us that no one from the Post Secondary Office called us, to find out how we were doing. We got out our address books and started calling other students. The majority hadn't heard from the CSB either. Here are some of their stories.

Ella Saganash lives in NDG. No one's called her and she hasn't had power for over a week. But she has a gas stove and said, "I'm taking it one day at a time. The only thing that keeps me going is that it feels like I'm out in the bush camping."

Kathy Shecapio lives in Longueil with her two children and husband. "If it hadn't been for my sister-in-law, we would definitely have ended up in a shelter."

Natasha Bates lives in Westmount. Her three-year-old daughter is recovering from chicken pox. "Nobody called me, but we managed." Natasha got her power back the weekend after the storm.

The Post Secondary Office had full power, electricity, heat and light. It could have been a place for students who didn't have any of those luxuries. We understand that some staff couldn't get to work. But they shouldn't have closed down the offices without any notification to Cree students. This is not intended to bash the Cree School Board, but to serve as a wake-up call for better planning. Should an emergency situation arise, their priority should be the welfare of the Cree students.

There are young students out there, single mothers, families--who may not know many people. Their only link is the CSB office. The office could have been used as a shelter, a place to warm up and have coffee, or a home base for telephone numbers of shelters, places to get food and supplies, etc. The staff could have called some of us and we all could have pulled together.

We just heard, CSB staff started trying to call students today, on the 9th day of the crisis. Hopefully, next time, the relief effort will be better managed and planned. Fortunately for us, family members from back home, neighbours and complete strangers were the only people concerned for our welfare during the Storm of the Century. Isn't that the funniest thing you ever heard?

MOTHER NATURE :1 HYDRO-QUEBEC : 0

by William Nicholls

We all thought that last year was the one where Mother Nature got really upset at Canada. We had the floods out west threatening to drown Winnipeg on the heels of the Sageunay floods.

Perhaps we didn't give enough attention to the Grand Old Lady and her powers. Well, most of southern Quebec experienced one facet of Cree bush life... no power. Unfortunaly most southerners were not prepared to deal with the lack of power.

Cree offices in southern Quebec and Ontario were hit. Newly appointed Cree Naskapi Act Commissioner Philip Awashish was stranded in Ottawa for two days. A tree and ice fell on the family car, a Ford Tempo. Alfred Loon had his power die at the beginning of nature's onslaught. He has survived without power for eight days to date. All of the Montreal Grand Council staff were at one time or another without power. Many people were either refugees or took in the storm's refugees.

In the Ottawa GCCQ offices, everyone except Bill Namagoose and Brian Craik had power. "If things had gotten worse, I was ready to build a teepee in my backyard," said Namagoose.

Namagoose said Ottawa got more rain, 67 cm, compared to 43 cm in Montreal. He said he doesn't like to kick somebody when they're down, but the ice rainfall comparison, combined with the fact that Ottawa was less crippled by the storm, shows that while Hydro-Quebec can build dams that they aren't energy managers.

Montreal's Cree Health Board Offices were empty. Staffer Bob Imrie said it is hard for staff to get to work as the downtown core is a mess. Imrie and family joined the storm's refugees heading to the Holiday Inn. Sadly, his money ran out before electricity was restored.

The Cree School Board at the time of printing had just started trying to locate all the students.

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FREEZING RAIN IN SOUTH CAUSES LARGE POWER OUTAGE

In 1989 when Hydro Quebec decided to export large amounts of power to the United States, the question of reliability of the Hydro Quebec power distribution became a public issue. At the time there were over 13,000 power outages per year in Quebec. Each client of Hydro Quebec went without power for an average of 6 and half-hours per year.

To improve this record Hydro Quebec decided to spend $1.2 billion on improvements to the distribution system. In the most recent annual report the number of hours of outage is shown as 3.2 hours per client. However, Hydro Quebec has also only recently cut back on the number of inspectors on the La Grande Project and cut back on the maintenance personnel for the rest of the system.

The Crees ask whether these cutbacks contributed to the extent of the power outages in southern Quebec and whether the cutbacks also raise issues concerning the safety of the La Grande System dams?

In addition, in the annual report Mr. Caille expresses the company objective of reducing construction standards to improve the profitability of the system. Will these lower standards compromise dam stability in the future? Moreover, will these new lower standards also apply to the transport and distribution systems?

Is there to be a double standard for maintenance, one for lines exporting electricity and another for lines distributing electricity in Quebec, and is this one of the causes for the recent high number of outages in Quebec?

Is Quebec focusing on exports to the expense of service in Quebec and safety for the Crees?

Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec)
Grand Conseil des Cris (du Québec)
CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY
ADMINISTRATION RÉGIONALE CRIE

Japissisit lodge revisited

BY WILLIAM NICHOLLS

Didn't have room for this the last few issues but thought that Ouje-Bougoumou's Lodge deserved it's good name back. Normally Neil would have first crack at this type of column, but due to the fact that he has only recently been allowed back in O.J. without having to constantly guard his back after his last restaurant review in that locale, the job fell to yours truly.

On menu for that night was an all you-can-eat Native traditional foods buffet for $15. Alan Bush, who explained to me that the lodge was under new management and had a new cook, warmly greeted me.

I had arrived with an appetite ready to take on the offer of all-you-can-eat. Alan and the cook pointed out the various culinary delights awaiting my palette. There were moose ribs, partridge, goose, rabbit stew, wild rice melody, bannock and other regular fare. I didn't avail myself of the normal vegetables but limited myself to the country food.

In a word it was superb. The goose was done to perfection. The partridge was all that I remembered. Personally I prefer partridge stew but it didn't stop me from adding a nice oven-baked to just the right amount piece of partridge on my second round to the buffet. Though the plate looked full, it was just to see what tasted good, then I would get down to serious business. I must admit I felt a little greedy upon smelling the buffet. I hadn't seen nor had country food on a regular basis for a long time. I could understand Neil's requests for community restaurants to start providing it.

The rabbit stew was magnificent with the meat easily detaching. The dumplings were just the things to sop up the gravy. My only real complaint was that I wasn't used to the Chinese food style of doing the moose ribs. It didn't stop me, though, from adding a second helping. The taste was different but not bad.

Overall this was more than a decent meal. One that brought back a lot of old familiar but not forgotten tastes. The tastes of childhood ghosting in from the past, bringing back the smell of days in the bush, of visiting relatives or being at grandpa and grandma's. It was the taste of just being glad to be home once again. Like Neil always said, Cree restaurants should serve traditional fare.

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This program is delivered in partnership with The University of Manitoba. Successful graduates will receive a Certificate in Environmental Education, Assessment and Protection. The program is transferrable for degree credit at The University of Manitoba.
To be considered for the 1998-1999 program, please submit your application no later than April 1, 1998.

For more information, please contact the
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Between Friends

by Deantha Edmunds

During times of hardship and struggle, it is natural to turn to those people you are closest to for support. Family, friends, loved ones, co-workers, neighbours--in times of need, these are the people who are there for you. They give you the help and encouragement you need to come out on top of your problems. You can learn a lot about the people around you when the world turns topsy-turvy all of a sudden.

Last week, in the midst of Ice Storm '98, everywhere you looked you could see people working through it together. And, let me tell you, it's hard to keep your spirits up when you're freezing your buns off in complete darkness! As if that wasn't bad enough, it seemed that every time we turned on the radio we were warned about something else. The water was shut off in most areas. Once it came back, we were told to boil it before drinking it. (Yeah, that's real easy to do when you don't have electricity.) Some phone lines were cut off. Shelters were running out of beds and food. Stores were running out of batteries, candles, water. A lot of people won't have their power for a few weeks. And so on.

Although it is easy to dwell on the negative, you could tell that people were trying to make the best of it. Some radio listeners called in to tell their personal stories and pass on helpful hints for others to try. We heard a lot of interesting ideas on how to stay warm and comfortable. (One kind-hearted woman meant well--She announced that she was a motivational public speaker and that her advice would be to surround ourselves with the color yellow since it has an uplifting affect on people. Hello--my entire hallway is a bright sunny yellow, and trust me, it was not helping!)

People opened up their doors to friends and family who were hit by the blackout. Some people had up to a dozen people camping out with them. One guy we know had his entire family staying at his place, and he said that everyone was fighting constantly. He left his own apartment and went out in the ice and cold just to have some peace and quiet for himself! But at the same time, he was grateful that his family left their home before it was too late, and that they were safe and warm and felt comfortable knowing that they could come to him for help.

The phones were ringing constantly wherever I went--loved ones calling from long-distance to check on things and give support, friends and neighbours calling to ask, "Is your power still off? So is mine," and then a few days later, "Is your power still on? Can I come over?" Long-distance friends calling to help make the time pass, to find out what's new, how you're doing, gossip about home and reminisce about the good old days.

In my apartment, my roomate and a good friend of mine sat in candlelight and listened to the radio. Without the CD player, TV, VCR, and hairdryer, we discovered new and interesting ways to have fun with bad hair. Card games, Trivial Pursuit, word rhyming games, singing songs about each other, telling our most embarrassing stories from high school, calling everyone we know for more suggestions on what to do, and a few drinks all of a sudden meant more to us than we could ever imagine. It was nice to know that through everything, we could still count on each other.

We are fortunate to have our electricity back, at home and at work. Most of our friends are doing well and getting back into the swing of things. Everyone is grateful that we got through it all together, and that we never lost sight of what is most important--that no matter what happens, we will never have to feel alone. And that is what it all comes down to--people reaching out to others in times of need and knowing that they have a hand to hold on to.

The Twilight Zone

Food for thought for 1998
BY THELMA & LOUISE
(Yes, we are in the holiday spirit)

Capricorn (Dec. 23-Jan. 19) Now it's the time to reflect on the past year. Look at what has been done and look at what is left to do. Focus your energy on becoming more assertive for this is the area that needs much work. Let go of the hesitation and self-doubt. Let things happen naturally. A new year means a new beginning. It's time to look at things from a new perspective. Maybe this will allow you to see things more clearly. An open mind means an open heart.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Emotions are choices. A time to recharge and a time to take charge. Strength needs to be your main focus for the new year. Build yourself up mentally and emotionally. You need to take care of loose ends in order to withstand the trials and challenges that 1998 will bring you.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) There is one grand lie--that we are limited. The only limits we have are the limits we believe. Positive forces are working in your favour, just combine it with good logical thinking and you will be on the right track for the coming year.

Aries (March 21-April 19) Aries rules! Think hard about what you want, because you'll probably get it. When you know and feel the miracle that you are, you become certain that nothing is impossible for you. Share the miracle with everyone around you. Your New Year looks sparkling.

Taurus (April 20-May 19) Listen to those inner signals that help you make the right choices--no matter what anyone thinks. Destiny is poking you in the ribs, nudging you to get moving and take hold of the opportunities before you. This could be a life-changing year for you on every level.

Gemini (May 20-June 21) Little, seemingly unconnected and meaningless events, viewed from the perspective of now, all led you to this very moment. You've been through what's politely called a "learning experience." You have learned. Not likely you will make the same mistakes again.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) You, a person with a vision, are like a pebble in a stream, moving ever outward to infinity, impacting on all who come into contact with the ripple. You have been a giving person all year. You have now come full-circle. It's time for you to learn to receive as gracefully as you gave.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 23) Realize that the journey and the goal are always the same. The purpose of life isn't to have a goal but to enjoy every step along the way and live a life filled with love. You have to learn to live in the present moment. Now is the only time we have, and the only time that we have control over.

Virgo (Aug. 24-Sept. 22) You create your thoughts, your thoughts create your intentions, and your intentions create your reality. The ancestor to all action starts with a single thought. If you are capable of producing the thought, you are capable of producing it in life.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) So many people are expecting a miracle instead of being a miracle. Don't take the little things in life for granted, for it is the little things that make life memorable. Something as simple as making another smile could be a miracle in itself.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) If you are going to follow your bliss and make a difference in the world, you will soon learn that you cannot follow the herd. Intuitive feelings always guide you in a direction of growth and purposefulness. Your journey has begun.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 22) Stop focusing on what you have to do and shift your consciousness to an appreciation for all you are and all that you do have. Life should not be filled with great expectations but every now and then life surprises us by meeting those expectations.

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CLASSIFIEDS

100-BIRTHS

Congratulations to our friend Mona Coonishish and her hon Joel on the birth of their sweet baby girl Selena. Give her lots of loving from us eh? We miss you friend. From us, Francis Shecapio and Rachel E. Happy new year!!!

Congratulations to Sherman and Flora on the firth of their baby boy Antonio Jake born on Nov 8, 1997 in North Bay. Good luck to the both of you and take care of each other. From friends always, Greda and Louie.

101-BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to our loving caring father Patterson Hester who will be celebrating his birthday on Dec 11, 1997. Thank you for everything you have done for us. We love you very much. With love from Patricia, Percy, Perry, Patterson Jr. and Lorena Hester.

Happy birthday to my grandmother Christine Fedora on December 25, 1997. I wish you all the best that you deserve. And have a great day and a great year! Love always, your granddaughter Melinda.

Birthday greetings going out to my uncles Billy on December 24 and Eric on January 2. Hope you two have a great time on your birthdays and many more wonderful years to come! Hey! Eric, don't party too much on your birthday. Ha! From your niece M.G.

For a very cute boy, Desmond Georgekish. Happy first birthday big boy! We love you. And also to my best friend Laurie-Ann, we would like to congratulate you in getting into college. We know you'll do great from April, Tony and Brandon.

Happy belated birthday to my brother Alfred on Dec 2. Also to my fellow Aquarians, my sisters Lillian on Jan 31 and Valerie on Feb 7 and Isabel on the 14th. Well, another occasion to drink.

Wishing a happy birthday to my cousin and a friend of mine Beverly Georgekish, who will be celebrating her 17th birthday on Dec 21. Happy birthday and many more wonderful years to come. Hope you'll enjoy your day and good luck in the years to come. Take care! Friend always Pamela in Wask.

Wishing a happy 22nd birthday to a very special sister Dianne Georgekish on Dec 24. Your a kind of sister that I won't forget. Sisters are forever! May your heart always be young and your dreams live forever! May this day be special as you are. Good luck in the years to come. Don't ever forget that I will always love you! Enjoy your birthday. With love your sister Pamela G. in Wask. Take good care of yourself Dianne. Love ya!

Happy 17th birthday to my cousin Beverly Georgekish on Dec 21, 1997. Wishing you all the best as you celebrate your special day. Hope you'll have a great time on your birthday and don't party too much! From you cousin Melinda. P.S. Take care of yourself!

Belated birthday wish going out to my cousin and a friend of mind, Jessica Diamond on Nov 27, 1997. Happy birthday and many more years to come! Sorry it took so long to send this in! Anyways, hope you had a great time on your birthday. In friendship, Melinda Georgekish.

Happy birthday to my friend Agnes Napash in Chisasibi. She will be celebrating her birthday on Dec 28, 1997. Our friendship will always be special to me, you're my special friend and you always will be. Friends, sharing the good times, caring about one another, being there for each other. I'm lucky to have a special friend like you. Once again happy birthday and many more to come! True friends are never forgotten. In friendship, Melinda Georgekish in Waskaganish.

Wishing a happy 22nd birthday to a dearest sister Dianne Georgekish who will be celebrating her birthday on Dec 24, 1997. Thank you for the many things you've done so thoughtfully. Thank you for the kindness you have always shown to me. Thank you for your help and for your understanding too. Thank you for being a very special sister and I also wanna thank you for all the fun and caring moments we've shared with each other. Once again happy birthday! With love always, your sister Melinda Georgekish.

Birthday greetings going out to my beautiful sister Janie Pepabano on January 26. May all your dreams and wishes come true. Happy 22nd sis. With love always, Jennifer.

Happy birthday to my wonderful wife Paula on Jan 12. I also want to thank the Lord for giving us five very special children to raise. We've have some good and bad times together. It was through prayer that love kept us together. I want to thank you (Paula) for being so patient and understanding on those difficult times we had in our lives. Keep up the good work of being a mother and wife. I love you so much! From your husband, John Matt.

Happy birthday to our son Victor Norman Cheezo. We thank the Lord that you are still riding your bike. We can't wait for you to start hunting. You'll be 4 years old on the 20th. Eric and Sharon. So-much.

300-PERSONALS

I am searchimg for my long lost friend, her name is Ramona Beck, daughter of John asn Lucy Beck. She must be somewhere in Ontario I believe. Ramona, if you're out there, drop me a LINE, THIS IS YOUR LONG LOST FRIEND EDNA NEEPOSH FROM NEMASKA. MY ADRESS IS p.o. BOX 188,NEMASKA, QUEBEC, J0Y 3B0

Sometimes in life you find someone who changes your life by being part of it, someone who makes you laugh until you can't stop, someone who makes you believe that dreams do come true. I just want to take this time to thank that special someone for being the sweetest part of my life. Boy, you're the greatest friend that I ever had. Thanks for always being there to share in my laughter and to comfort me in my tears. I can always depend on you. Words can't express my gratitude for each and every little thing that you do. I can honestly cay I have never before had a feeling so good in my heart. Also to thank you for just being you, and along with these thanks come these very simple - yet so important words, words for you to always remember I love you! You know I'll always adore you. Hope you have a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year. You've made last Christmas very special and I hope this christmas will be just as special.

I would like to say hi! to my cousin in Chisasibi, Lena Pash. I just wanted to say hi and I hope I'll see you soon. Take care of yourself! From your cousin Patricia Hester in Waskaganish.

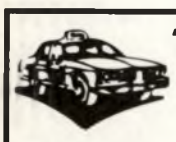
I would like to say hi! to Melanie Gunner in Mistissini. So, how's life treating you so far? I hope you're doing great. Anyways hope to see you again sometime and take care of yourself. From P.H. in Wask.

Hi! to Pauline Neeposh in Nemaska I just wanted to say hi and hope I'll get to see you again sometime. Well, I had a great time over there and it's kind of embarrasing for me to write this. Ha! Anyways take care of yourself! From someone in Wask. (You know me).

Hi! to Joni Blacksmith and Sarah Blacksmith in Waswanipi. What's up girls. Hope to see you girls again sometime. From M.G. P.S. Take care of yourselves!

We would like to say hello to our girlfriends in Mist. Tiffany Gunner and Kathleen Shecapio. We loved you girls We hope we will see you girls. We always remember you girls. From the boys in Nemaska. Don't tell anybody girls, ?? and ??.

***February 14* is coming, Day Of Romance. Don't forget to send your message to that special someone in time for the *Nation VALENTINE'S ISSUE.* We need that message pronto! Deadline: January 20. Don't be late! S/he'll love you for it forever.**



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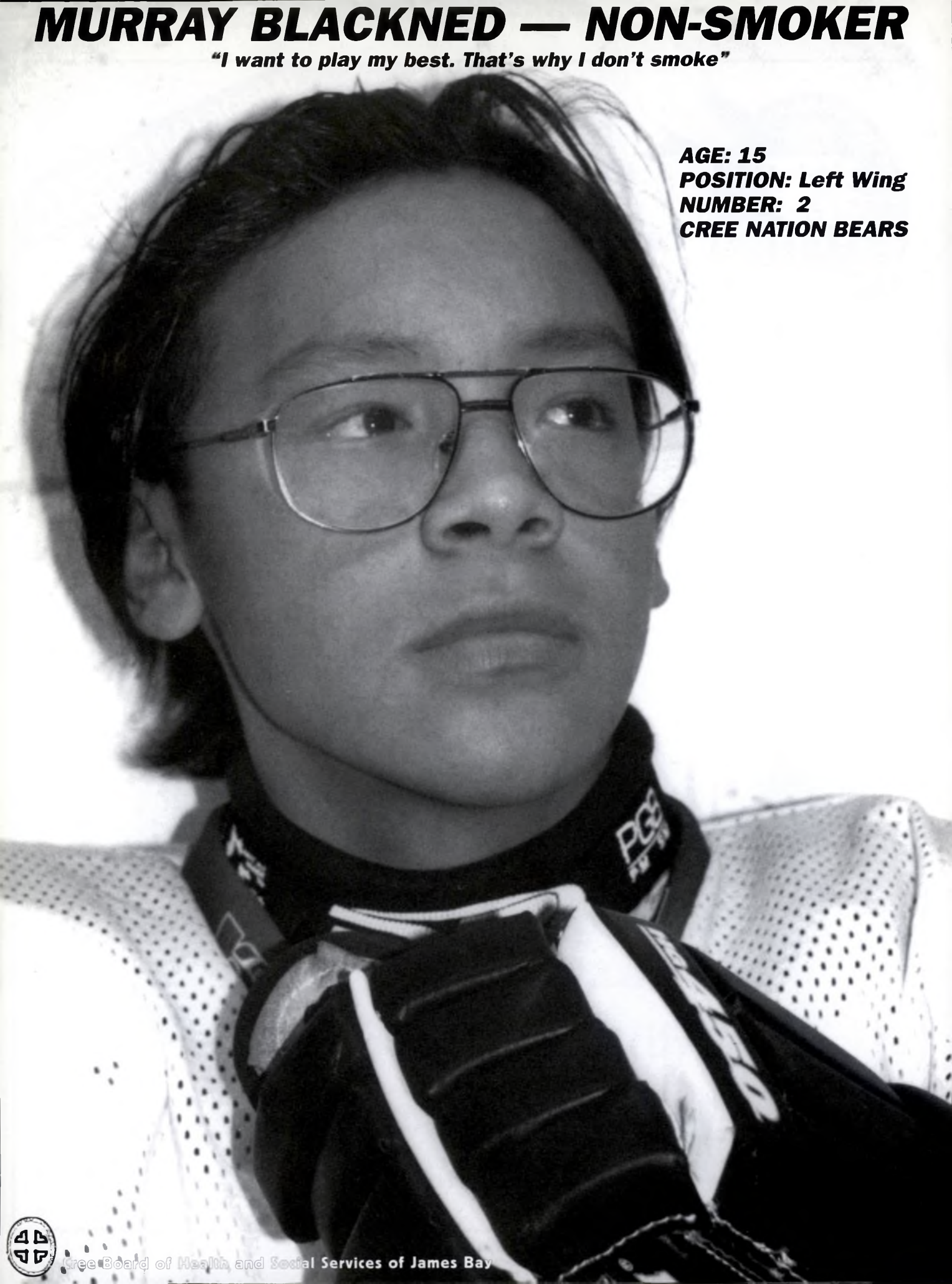

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Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

IMPORTANT NOTICE:
Change of Deadline

POSTER CONTEST

CREE SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC BULLETIN

The Cree Education Act Review Committee is pleased to announce a poster contest open to all members of the Cree Communities residing on or out of territory.The poster must emphasize the following themes:

1."Reclaiming Our Children's Future";
2."Children Are Our Future Leaders".

The winning entry will be used to promote the First Assembly on the Cree Education Act and the logo will also be used to promote all future works that will be commissioned on the Cree Education Act.

The prizes for this contest are divided as follows:

1st Prize $1,000.00 and a trip paid to the First Assembly
2nd Prize $750.00
3rd Prize $250

The deadline to receive entries is **Friday, February 27, 1998.**
All entries are to be sent to the following address:

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